

**SLIPPING LAYER CONTAINING WAX MIXTURE FOR DYE-  
DONOR ELEMENT USED IN THERMAL DYE TRANSFER**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

5        Reference is made to commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent  
Applications Serial Number: 10/614,378 by Foster et al., filed of even date herewith  
*Containing Wax*  
~~(Docket 86697)~~, entitled "Slipping Layer For Dye-Donor Element used in Thermal  
Dye Transfer" and Serial Number: 10/614,600 by Foster et al., filed of even date  
herewith ~~(Docket 86698)~~, entitled "Slipping Layer Containing Branched Olefin For  
10      Dye-Donor Element used in Thermal Dye Transfer."

*BH  
3-27-06*

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to dye donor elements used in thermal dye transfer, and more particularly to the use of a blend of waxes, including an alpha-olefin maleic anhydride polymer or the like, in the slipping layer on the back side thereof to improve the performance of the donor element before and during the printing operation.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

In recent years, thermal transfer systems have been developed to obtain prints from pictures which have been generated electronically from a color camera.

20      According to one way of obtaining such prints, an electronic picture is first subjected to color separation by color filters. The respective color-separated images are then converted into electrical signals. These signals are then operated on to produce cyan, magenta and yellow electrical signals. These signals are then transmitted to a thermal printer. To obtain the print, a cyan, magenta or yellow dye-donor element is placed

25      face-to-face with a dye-receiving element. The two are then inserted between a thermal printing head and a platen roller. A line-type thermal printing head is used to apply heat from the back of the dye-donor sheet. The thermal printing head has many heating elements and is heated up sequentially in response to the cyan, magenta and yellow signals. The process is then repeated for the other two colors. A color hard

30      copy is thus obtained which corresponds to the original picture viewed on a screen. Further details of this process and an apparatus for carrying it out are contained in U.S.